

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 22, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on Monday, January 22, 2007 in Room 372, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

President Lesser called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

The following Commissioners were present for roll call:

President Lesser  
Vice President Duba  
Commissioner Jernigan  
Commissioner Rodriguez  
Commissioner Tanberg

Introduction of the audience followed.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Lesser reported the following:

- The upcoming Women's Health Summit is considering enhancing the registration process by allowing people to register online using a credit card. The Office of Women's Health is also focusing on disabled women as a topic at the conference.
- That following the Board of Supervisors presentation on January 16, 2007, she met with Sandra Barbee, County Counsel, and commission staff to review the Commission's ordinance. Richard Girgado, Deputy County Counsel, will work on amendments to the ordinance that include, allowing the Commission to make donations and fundraise. Commissioner Jernigan suggested having an executive session to provide input on the changes to the ordinance.

(Commissioner Freeman arrived at 10:15 a.m.)

- Board of Supervisors Executive Office Fiscal Services will be giving a presentation at the next Commission meeting to describe the accounting and procurement process.

(Commissioner Davalos arrived at 10:20 a.m. constituting a quorum.)

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2007**

(Treasurer Creary arrived at 10:22 a.m.)

On motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Commissioner Davalos, and duly carried, with Commissioner Freeman abstaining, the minutes of January 8, 2007 were approved with the following correction:

Page 2, last paragraph; the ~~Committee~~ Los Angeles County Older Women's Issues Committee will be meeting in .....

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Creary reported on expenditures for the month of December 2006. The beginning balance for December was \$17,559.08; there were no expenditures; income was \$350.44; and the ending balance was \$17,909.52. The monthly allocation for January 2007 is \$2,984.92.

Commissioner Davalos requested clarification on the amount of funds available under Scholarships in the Trust Fund Ledger. Staff stated that they are currently working on creating a new template that will accurately represent the amounts of funds available in each fund. Commissioner Jernigan also suggested showing all allocations on the ledger. Staff will have a draft of the new ledger by the second meeting in March or the first meeting in April. President Lesser requested that a draft be sent to her, Treasurer Creary, and Vice President Duba prior to being presented to the Committee.

Commissioner Jernigan suggested that the monthly Treasurer's report be given to Treasurer Creary prior to the Commission meeting.

(Commissioner Pinedo arrived at 10:37 a.m.)

### **UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES PERTAINING TO THE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION-FOR GRACE**

Cynthia Toussaint, Vice President and Spokesperson for the organization For Grace, gave a brief background on her life and struggle with the chronic pain disease, Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD)

(Commissioner Gravely arrived at 10:40 a.m.)

Ms. Toussaint talked about pain diseases and raising awareness world wide through mass media and public speaking via legislators and health care providers. She spearheaded a California Senate Information Hearing about RSD. The For Grace website, [www.forgrace.org](http://www.forgrace.org), has also been revamped to include more resources.

Ms. Toussaint commended leaders in pain, such as Commissioner Davalos and Diane Hoffman. She also is raising awareness regarding gender bias and chronic pain disease, especially with physicians. There is an upcoming article in the June issue of *Women's Day* and a possible article in *Reader's Digest* that address these biases. Ms. Toussaint is currently writing her life story and has producers that are committed to making a movie about her story.

Treasurer Creary suggested that a link to the American Heart Association be added to Ms. Toussaint's website because they are aware that gender bias is occurring when females visit a cardiologist. Commissioner Pinedo suggested that the Women's

Commission have a link to the For Grace website and vice versa. President Lesser will be sharing this information with Health Summit Committee members.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Staff reported the following:

- Three additional training dates are available for any Commissioner that has not attended the AB1234 Ethics Training. The available dates are: January 25, 2007 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., February 8 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. and February 15, 2007 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. The trainings will be held in the Board Hearing Room. Please bring your certificate of completion and a copy will be placed in your folder.
- February is Black History Month and the Los Angeles Zoo is celebrating by having special entertainment, crafts and food. A flyer with detailed information was distributed.
- Congratulations to staff member Twila Kerr on becoming a new aunt. She will be visiting the baby in New Jersey and will be on vacation for a week. Staff members Rhonda Rangel and Nyla Jefferson will be available to assist Commissioners with any requests.

### **UPDATE ON RESOURCES AND NEEDS OF CASA DE ROSAS~SUNSHINE MISSION.**

President Lesser thanked Commissioners for their clothing donations. Commissioner Rodriguez recommended that the Commission purchase a gift certificate for a printer to donate to the shelter. This item will be placed on the February 12, 2007 agenda for discussion and approval. Vice President Duba suggested that the clothing donations be an ongoing agenda item.

### **PURCHASE TICKETS AT \$95 EACH TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL CEDAR SINAI WOMEN'S HEALTH CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2007 AT THE HYATT REGENCY CENTURY PLAZA HOTEL IN CENTURY CITY.**

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jernigan, seconded by Vice President Duba, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to purchase up to five tickets at \$95 to attend the Annual Cedars Sinai Women's Health Conference on Friday, March 16, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in Century City. One Commissioner from each district will attend the conference. Staff will also inquire about having a resource booth at the Conference.

### **2007 AWARDS LUNCHEON AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Freeman reported that the next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Media Committee on February 12, 2007 following the Commission meeting. Twila Kerr, Staff, reported the following:

- UCLA is the first \$3,000 Diamond Sponsor.
- The awardees have started sending in their guest lists and invites will be mailed to them.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> District awardee is Angie Papadakis. Supervisor Knabe has purchased 3 tables for the luncheon and will invite former 4<sup>th</sup> District Commissioners and Awardees.
- Since February is sweeps month, the MC's that were originally invited will be on vacation in March and are unable to attend the luncheon. Diana Medina with KABC is assisting us with securing a MC.
- Patricia Allen Dreizler will be receiving the Presidents Award.

Commissioner Rodriguez suggested inviting Marilyn McCoo to be the MC. Treasurer Creary will follow up with inviting Ms. McCoo.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Older Women's Issues Committee:** Commissioner Freeman will be sending a letter to Diane Sandoval of the Retired Employees of LA County and ask that they consider reproducing the "Widows Guide" and also printing it in Spanish. President Lesser requested that a copy of the letter be forwarded to her and Commissioner Mummey. Pat Wilson reported that the Los Angeles County Older Women's Issues Committee will be focusing on caregiving and will be researching caregiver brochures that are available in Los Angeles County. The City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles Area Agency on Aging are currently working on a comprehensive brochure for caregivers.

**Health Committee:** No report.

**Domestic Violence Committee:** Commissioner Rodriguez reported that the next meeting will be on January 30, 2007 to discuss policy guidelines for donations to Domestic Violence shelters/agencies.

**Gender Equity Committee:** Commissioner Davalos reported that she will be drafting a letter to be sent to the office of Affirmative Action requesting: How many women are in upper management positions- Los Angeles County employees and how many women are eligible for these upper management positions. She requested Committee members to submit suggestions via email to her by Friday, January 26, 2007. The next committee meeting will be on January 30, 2007 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Legislative Committee:** Commissioner Jernigan reported that the national minimum wage bill passed and now will go through the Senate. Treasurer Creary inquired about the current elected officials and their committee assignments. Once they are assigned, the roster will be available from the State. President Lesser reported that she will be meeting with a federal assistant U.S. Attorney who is overseeing the human trafficking program in Los Angeles County and will invite her to present at a future Commission meeting.

**Education Committee and Media/Public Relations Committee:** Commissioner Freeman reported that there was one newspaper reporter that attended the press conference at the Scholarship Orientation Luncheon. She also commended staff for organizing the event.

Vice President Duba thanked Supervisor Burke for attending and providing welcoming comments to the scholarship recipients and their guests. She also suggested that next year, to avoid lines, both sides of the table be used for serving lunch. Commissioner Jernigan suggested that the Committee discuss raising the scholarship amount. The next committee meeting will be a joint meeting and will be on February 12, 2007 from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Special Events/5K Run/Walk Committee:** Vice President Duba reported that the 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, 2007.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Genevieve Clavreul shared that she attended the Governor Schwarzenegger's Care Plan presentation in Sacramento. The Governor spoke on the issue of the cost of health care and the implied tax (fee) increase. Ms. Clavreul also commented on the cost of physician's fees at King Drew.

Cynthia Rullo-Forrest is seeking assistance in facilitating the process of redetermining the cause of death by the County Coroner for her husband because it is affecting her receiving survivor benefits. Her advocate, Mr. Kaliso Mwanza, from the Salvation Army provided the Commission with a brief history of the events and death of Mr. Forrest. Ms. Rullo-Forrest stated that she has an upcoming meeting with Deputy Tate of the 4<sup>th</sup> District and would appreciate any assistance the County and the Commission for Women can provide her.

#### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Treasurer Creary attended the following events:

- 2006 Girls at Risk Scholarship Reception and presentation of scrolls as arranged by County Supervisor/Chair Zev Yaroslavsky, Supervisor Burke, Supervisor Knabe, Supervisor Molina and Supervisor Antonovich on January 16, 2007 at the Hall of Administration.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, honoring Compton Superior Court Judge Ellen Deshazer at the Claude Hudson Auditorium, M.L.K. Hospital January 12, 2007.

Commissioner Gravely attended the following events:

- 2006 Girls at Risk Scholarship reception on January 16, 2007 at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

- Women for Women Forum at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Laguna Beach on January 24, 2007, presented by National Association for Female Executives and Equal Voice. Secretary of State, Debra Brown was the guest speaker.
- AB1234 Ethics Training on January 25, 2007 at the Hall of Administration.

Commissioner Freeman attended the AB1234 Ethics training on December 20, 2007.

**MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA (to be presented and placed on a future agenda):** There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

Charlotte Lesser, President  
Reiko Duba, Vice President  
Ruth Creary, Ph.D., Treasurer  
Karin Davalos  
Peggy Freeman  
Wadie Gravely  
Ruth Jernigan  
Michele Pinedo  
Olivia Rodríguez  
Bobbi Jean Tanberg

#### **EXCUSED**

Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Janet Mummey, Esq.  
Elise ZeBrack

#### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Rhonda Rangel, Nyla Jefferson, and Twila P. Kerr, Executive Office  
Gwen Evans, OAA

#### **GUESTS**

Genevieve Clavreul  
Pat Wilson  
Cynthia Toussaint  
Cynthia Rullo-Forrest  
Kaliso Mwanza  
Pegi Burdick